

January 9, 2025
Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 9th day of January, A.D., 2025 there was held a Regular Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Willacy County, Texas at the County Judge's Office, 576 West Main, in the City of Raymondville, Texas for the purpose of transacting the following agenda:

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum.
3. Invocation / Pledge.
4. Public Comment (s).
5. Approval of Claims. ACTION REQUIRED
6. Approval of Previous Minutes as follows: December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting; December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Addendum #1; December 18, 2024 Public Workshop; December 30, 2024 Public Hearing; December 30, 2024 Regular Meeting; ACTION REQUIRED.
7. Presentation to acknowledge and recognize Elizabeth Barnhart for her years of service to Willacy County Tax Assessor/Collector.
8. Informational purposes, Resignation of Crime Victims Liaison, Laura E. Montes, accepted as of 1/3/2025. Will advertise for Willacy County Sheriff's Office Crime Victim Liaison position.
9. TxDOT to provide Monthly Updates.
10. Approval of Bond and Payment for Elected Officials. ACTION REQUIRED
11. Approval of Oath for Elected Officials and staff. ACTION REQUIRED.
12. Discussion and Action to approve a monthly distribution Program Project for Calendar Year 2025 by the Food Bank of the RGV, to be held on the last Tuesday of every month with the exception of holiday schedules. ACTION REQUIRED.
13. Discussion and Action on appointment of (3) three Commissioners to the Willacy County Emergency Service District. ACTION REQUIRED.
14. Discussion and Action to approve Contract between the County of Willacy and the City of Raymondville, Texas by authority of section 31.092 (b), Texas Election Code, for the conduct and supervision of the City General Election to be held on May 3, 2025. ACTION REQUIRED.
15. Discussion and Action in regards to Request for authorization for the Willacy County Sheriffs Office to apply for the State Homeland Security Grant Program – Regular Projects (SHSP-R), Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (No-match Grant). ACTION REQUIRED.
16. Discussion and Action in regards to Request authorization for the Willacy County Sheriffs Office to apply for the Criminal Justice Grant Program FY2026 (20% match grant). ACTION REQUIRED.

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17. Discussion and Action in regards to Request Authorization for the Willacy County Sheriffs Office to apply for the General Victim Assistance Grant Program, FY2026 (20% match grant, continuation grant). ACTION REQUIRED.
18. Discussion and Action in regards to Request Authorization for the Willacy County Sheriffs Office to apply for the General Victim Assistance Grant Program, FY2026 (Crime Victim Liaison Investigator / 20% match grant) ACTION REQUIRED.
19. Approval of Resolution authorizing the Willacy County Sheriffs Office to conduct enhanced patrol through the OPSG Texas Willacy FY24 performance period (March 01, 2025 through February 28, 2026) program and to accept the award. (Resolution attached / Grant: 3193510). ACTION REQUIRED.
20. Discussion and Action to consider approving a phone landline for the Indigent Defense Coordinators Office. ACTION REQUIRED.
21. Approval of Monthly Reports. ACTION REQUIRED
22. Approval of Travel Request. ACTION REQUIRED.
23. Approval of Treasurers Report. ACTION REQUIRED
24. Approval of Treasurers Quarterly Report. ACTION REQUIRED.
25. Approval of Budget Amendments. ACTION REQUIRED
26. Approval of Tax Collector Report. ACTION REQUIRED
27. Review of Special Claims.
28. Review monthly reports on jail count.
29. Review of monthly employee overtime report.
30. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 - (a) Confer with Commissioners Court legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or negotiations involving the county, its employees, or its interests, pursuant to VTCA Government Code, Section 551.071 (a) and (2).
 - (b) Deliberation regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or negotiations involving the county, its employees, or its interests, pursuant to V.T.C.A Government Code, Section 551.071 (a) and (2).
31. ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 - (a) Possible Action.
 - (b) Possible Action.
32. Adjourn.

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THE COURT MET:
PRESENT:

Aurelio Guerra, Jr.,	County Judge,
Micaela "Kelly" Zamorano-Alaniz,	Commissioner, Precinct 1,
Mario Tijerina,	Commissioner, Precinct 2,
Henry De La Paz,	Commissioner, Precinct 3,
Ernesto Garcia,	Commissioner, Precinct 4,
Annette Hinojosa,	County Attorney,
Maria Del Carmen Maldonado,	County Auditor,
Elizabeth Rios,	County Chief Deputy Clerk,

WHEREUPON, the Court was opened to the following proceedings were had to wit:

PERSONS VISITING THE COURT:

Enedelia Cavazos	Rene Davila, TxDOT
Hector G. Tijerina	Delia Guerra
Elena R. Vasquez	Melissa Muniz

1. Call to Order – Chairman Aurelio Guerra, Jr.
2. Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum – **ALL PRESENT**
3. Pledge / Invocation – Commissioner Henry De La Paz
4. Public Comments – None.

Agenda # 5
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF CLAIMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval of Claims, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 6
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AS
FOLLOWS: DECEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER
12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING
ADDENDUM NUMBER 1, DECEMBER
18, 2024 PUBLIC WORKSHOP,
DECEMBER 30, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING
AND DECEMBER 30, 2024 REGULAR
MEETING

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of previous minutes as follows: December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting, December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Addendum Number 1, December 18, 2024 Public Workshop, December 30, 2024 Public Hearing and December 30, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 7
PRESENTATION TO ACKNOWLEDGE
AND RECOGNIZE ELIZABETH
BARNHART FOR HER YEARS OF
SERVICE TO WILLACY COUNTY
TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR

As per the Chairman, to acknowledge and recognize Elizabeth Barnhart for her years of service to Willacy County Tax Assessor/Collector.

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Agenda # 8
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES,
RESIGNATION OF CRIME VICTIMS
LIAISON, LAURA E. MONTES,
ACCEPTED AS OF JANUARY 3, 2025.
WILL ADVERTISE FOR WILLACY
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME
VICTIM LIAISON POSITION

Informational purposes by Sheriff Jose Salazar on reference to resignation of Crime Victims Liaison, Laura E. Montes, accepted as of January 3, 2025. Will advertise for Willacy County Sheriff's Office Crime Victim Liaison position.

Agenda # 9
TXDOT TO PROVIDE
MONTHLY UPDATES

Presentation by Rene Davila with TxDOT to provide monthly updates on FM 1425 and FM 490 Projects.

Agenda # 10
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF BOND AND PAYMENT FOR
ELECTED OFFICIALS

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of Bond and Payment for Elected Officials. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Motion Amended: Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of Bond and Payment for Elected Officials and Employees who are required to have a bond by the Law. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Continue with item number 13.

Agenda # 11
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF OATH FOR ELECTED
OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Oaths for Elected Officials and Staff. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 12
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
APPROVE A MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION
PROGRAM PROJECT FOR CALENDAR
YEAR 2025 BY THE FOOD BANK
OF THE RGV, TO BE HELD ON THE
LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HOLIDAY
SCHEDULES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of a monthly distribution Program Project for Calendar Year 2025 by the Food Bank of the RGV, to be held on the last Tuesday of every month with the exception of holiday schedules. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Motion Amended: Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of the use of Sebastian Community Center of a monthly distribution Program Project for Calendar Year 2025 by the Food Bank of the RGV, to be held on the last Tuesday of every month with the exception of holiday schedules. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Chairman Guerra, Abstained on item number 13 and instructed for Presiding Chairman Commissioner Henry De La Paz to open item number 13 for discussion and action.

Agenda # 13
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON
APPOINTMENT OF THREE (3)
COMMISSIONERS TO THE
WILLACY COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICE DISTRICT

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Zamorano-Alaniz for approval of the appointment of three (3) Commissioners Susan A. Guerra, Maria Enedelia Cavazos and Delia B. Guerra to the Willacy County Emergency Service District. Motion was put before the Court by the Presiding Chairman. Presiding Chairman De La Paz, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina and Garcia voting AYE. County Judge Guerra voting ABSTAINED. Motion was declared carried.

Commissioners Court brought item number 13 for Commissioners Court Members Record Vote.

Commissioners Court Members Record Vote:

For:

Commissioner Precinct 1, Micaela "Kelly" Zamorano-Alaniz
Presiding Chairman Commissioner Precinct 3, Henry De La Paz
Commissioner Precinct 4, Ernesto Garcia

Abstained:

County Judge, Aurelio Guerra, Jr.
Commissioner Precinct 2, Mario Tijerina

Presiding Chairman Commissioner De La Paz, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz and Garcia voting AYE. County Judge Guerra and Commissioner Tijerina voting ABSTAINED. Motion was declared carried.

Move to item number 21.

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Agenda # 14

DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE COUNTY OF WILLACY AND
THE CITY OF RAYMONDVILLE,
TEXAS BY AUTHORITY OF SECTION
31.092 (B), TEXAS ELECTION CODE,
FOR THE CONDUCT AND SUPERVISION
OF THE CITY GENERAL ELECTION TO
BE HELD ON MAY 3, 2025

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of Contract between the County of Willacy and the City of Raymondville, Texas by Authority of Section 31.092 (b), Texas Election Code, for the conduct and supervision of the City General Election to be held on May 3, 2025, contingent upon Legal Review. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 15

DISCUSSION AND ACTION IN
REGARDS TO REQUEST FOR
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE TO APPLY FOR THE STATE
HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
PROGRAM – REGULAR PROJECTS
(SHSP-R), FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR
2025 (NO-MATCH GRANT)

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of authorization for the Willacy County Sheriff's Office to apply for the State Homeland Security Grant Program – Regular Projects (SHSP-R), Federal Fiscal Year 2025. (No-Match Grant). Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Motion Amended: Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval to include the Resolution if it is required. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Commissioner Mario Tijerina steps out of the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and returns back at 10:31 a.m.

Agenda # 16
DISCUSSION AND ACTION IN
REGARDS TO REQUEST
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE TO APPLY FOR THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT
PROGRAM FY 2026 (20%
MATCH GRANT)

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval of authorization for the Willacy County Sheriff's Office to apply for the Criminal Justice Grant Program FY 2026. (20% Match Grant). Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Motion Amended: Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval to include the Resolution if it is needed. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 17

DISCUSSION AND ACTION IN
REGARDS TO REQUEST
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE TO APPLY FOR THE
GENERAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE
GRANT PROGRAM, FY 2026.
(20% MATCH GRANT,
CONTINUATION GRANT)

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of authorization for the Willacy County Sheriff's Office to apply for the General Victim Assistance Grant Program, FY 2026. (20% Match Grant, Continuation Grant) and to include Resolution if it is required. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 18

DISCUSSION AND ACTION IN
REGARDS TO REQUEST
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE WILLACY
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO APPLY
FOR THE GENERAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE
GRANT PROGRAM, FY 2026. (CRIME
VICTIM LIAISON INVESTIGATOR / 20%
MATCH GRANT)

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia to table this item. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 19

IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
THE WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE TO CONDUCT ENHANCED
PATROL THROUGH THE OPSG TEXAS
WILLACY FY 24 PERFORMANCE
PERIOD (MARCH 01, 2025 THROUGH
FEBRUARY 28, 2026) PROGRAM AND
TO ACCEPT THE AWARD. (RESOLUTION
ATTACHED / GRANT: 3193510)

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Resolution authorizing the Willacy County Sheriff's Office to conduct enhanced patrol through the OPSG Texas Willacy FY 24 performance period (March 01, 2025 through February 28, 2026) program and to accept the award. (Resolution attached / Grant: 3193510). Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 20

DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
CONSIDER APPROVING A PHONE
LANDLINE FOR THE INDIGENT
DEFENSE COORDINATORS OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of a phone landline for the Indigent Defense Coordinator's Office. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Return back to item number 10.

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Agenda # 21
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval of Monthly Reports, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 22
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TRAVEL REQUEST

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina that the following travel requests be approved:

1. Commissioner Precinct 1, Micaela M. Alaniz to College Station, Texas on January 13-17, 2025.

Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Commissioner Mario Tijerina steps out of the meeting at 10:52 and returns back at 10:53 a.m.

Agenda # 23
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval of Treasurer's Report, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 24
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TREASURERS QUARTERLY
REPORTS

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Treasurer's Quarterly Report, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 25
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia to table this item. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 26
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Tax Collector's Report, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 27
IN REGARDS TO REVIEW
OF SPECIAL CLAIMS

As per the Chairman, Review of Special Claims.

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Agenda # 28
REVIEW OF MONTHLY REPORTS
ON JAIL COUNT

As per the Chairman, Review of Monthly Report on Jail Count. There was a total of 78 Inmates.

Agenda # 29
REVIEW OF MONTHLY EMPLOYEE
OVERTIME REPORT

As per the Chairman, Review of Monthly Employee Overtime Report.

Agenda # 30
EXECUTIVE SESSION:
(A) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS
COURT LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING
PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED
LITIGATION AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS
INVOLVING THE COUNTY, ITS EMPLOYEES,
OR ITS INTERESTS, PURSUANT TO VTCA
GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (A)
AND (2)

(B) DELIBERATION REGARDING PENDING OR
CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION AND/OR
NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING THE COUNTY,
ITS EMPLOYEES, OR ITS INTERESTS, PURSUANT
TO V.T.C.A GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION
551.071 (A) AND (2)

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina that Court Adjourn to Closed Executive Session at 11:10 a.m. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

As per District Attorney, Annette Hinojosa Commissioner Henry De La Paz had stepped out of the meeting at 12:14 p.m. during Executive Session.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Zamorano-Alaniz that Court Reconvene into Open Session at 12:16 p.m. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 31
ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION:

- (A) POSSIBLE ACTION.
- (B) POSSIBLE ACTION.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia no action taken on item numbers 30 and 31. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Commissioner Henry De La Paz returns back to the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Zamorano-Alaniz that Court Adjourned. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Zamorano-Alaniz, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

There being no further action,

Court Adjourned.